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SKEGNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

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SKEGNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1948

To the Chairman and Members of the Skegness Urban District Council

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Fourteenth Annual Report.

Statistics.

Area (in acres)	4,411.788
Number of inhabited houses 1948 ...	3,506
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1948 ...	£125,529
Product of a Penny Rate	£515
Population	12,460

Extracts from Vital Statistics during the Year.

	Total	Males	Females
Births ...	204 ...	105 ...	99
Deaths ...	149 ...	74 ...	75

Birth Rate 16.3. ... Death Rate 11.1

Number of Women dying in consequence of childbirth	from Sepsis ...	Nil
	from other causes	Nil
Deaths of infants under one year of age ...		9
Infant Mortality Rate		44.4
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		21
,, ,, Measles		Nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ...		2
,, ,, Diarrhoæ (under 2 years of age) ...		Nil
,, ,, Cerebro Spinal Fever		Nil
,, ,, Tuberculosis		2

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year. The figures are :—

	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	16 ...	16 ...	Nil
Diphtheria ...	Nil ...	Nil ...	Nil
Erysipelas ...	4 ...	Nil ...	Nil
Pneumonia ...	12 ...	1 ...	1
Measles ...	13 ...	Nil ...	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal-Fever	Nil ...	Nil ...	Nil
Malaria ...	Nil ...	Nil ...	Nil
Poliomyelitis ...	Nil ...	Nil ...	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2 ...	2 ...	Nil
Whooping Cough ...	3 ...	1 ...	Nil
	50 ...	20 ...	1

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were no cases notified during the year.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health and Superintendent of Isolation Hospital: Dr. D. Fraser Menzies, M.B., Ch.B., (St. And.).

Sanitary Inspector: S. James, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C.

SKEGNESS INFANT WELFARE.

Attendances. The average number of Mothers attending the Clinic every week 88 with their children. The Clinic is held each Friday from 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m. A Doctor and two Health Visitors are in attendance. Various duties are also carried out by Members of the Infant Welfare Committee. Baby clothes are made and sold to the Mothers at very reasonable prices.

Immunisation. Children are immunised on the third Friday of each month.

Ante-Natal Clinic. This is held each week.

Orthopaedic Clinic. This Clinic is held at the Centre each week, and our children attend for treatment when necessary.

Sunlight. Children have sunlight treatment on the first and third Monday of each month.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic. This Clinic is held at the Centre each week.

National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juice are dispensed from the Centre every Wednesday and Friday.

I am indebted to Mrs. D. T. Edwards for this excellent report and for which I tender my grateful thanks. I also wish to thank the nurses and Committee of the Association for their excellent work throughout the year.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The hospital was taken over during the year by the Ministry of Health and arrangements are made to send infectious cases to the Isolation Hospitals at Boston, Lincoln or Grimsby.

Venereal Diseases.

There is a local centre for the treatment of venereal diseases and sessions are held each week on Thursday evenings.

Tuberculosis.

The County Council provide for the treatment of tuberculosis. A clinic for this purpose is established at Skegness, and sessions are held each Tuesday afternoon. An arrangement, whereby cases of suspected tuberculosis can be X-Rayed at Skegness Hospital has proved most convenient and beneficial to the residents of Skegness.

GENERAL HEALTH.

There is nothing outstanding to report as the general health of the town has been most satisfactory.

DAY NURSERY.

The Nursery was open during the summer months and accommodated children from one to five years of age. Although the Nursery did not make a profit it provided a much needed want and enabled mothers to go out and do seasonable work happy in the knowledge that their children were being well cared for.

Scavenging.

The removal and disposal of house and trade refuse and the cleansing of earth closets, privies and cesspools in the area is carried out by the Council, and is under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Salvage work requires constant thought and attention, and excellent results were obtained during the year from this source.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action, or result of action taken in regard to these will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.

The sanitary conditions and water supply at the public elementary schools are good.

The County School Medical Officer regularly inspects the Schools and the children. Any treatment required can be obtained through the medical practitioners in the town and through the various schemes provided by the Education Committee.

Shops Act.

Inspections are made from time to time and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

Housing.

Your Council is much to be commended for the efforts made with regard to housing and it is very pleasing to note that the erection of new houses is going on so well. It is also pleasing to note that the repairs of houses is also much easier since building materials were made more available.

Report on Housing Acts Inspections.

The number of inspections made and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

Water Supply.

A plentiful supply of wholesome water is obtained from the Candlesby and Welton boreholes.

On analysis this water is found to be of excellent quality and purity.

Meat and Food.

The slaughterhouses controlled by the Ministry of Food and situate in Richmond Drive are visited by your Council's Sanitary Inspector during hours of slaughter.

The number of visits paid in connection with food inspection will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is stored or prepared for sale have been regularly inspected and are, on the whole, clean and well kept.

Milk Supply.

Frequent visits have been paid to the cowsheds and dairies in the area. A good standard of cleanliness is maintained.

Six samples of milk were submitted for biological examination, and all gave a negative result.

Eighteen samples of milk were procured for analysis and of these one T.T. Pasteurised and two pasteurised milk samples were found not to be satisfactory owing to the fact that they were inefficiently pasteurised. Repeat samples showed the necessary correction had been made.

Milk Special Designations Order, 1936.

There is one licensed purveyor of Pasteurised Milk and there is one licensed dealer of Tuberculin Tested Milk. One licence is granted to an establishment to bottle Accredited Milk.

Ice Cream.

Thirtytwo samples of ice cream were sent for analysis, sixteen of which were unsatisfactory. In some cases as many as three repeat samples were taken before the necessary correction was made.

One manufacturer was interviewed by the Public Health Committee and warned as to any future unsatisfactory samples.

Bakehouses.

These are all of good type and construction and are kept in very good condition. No complaint was necessary against these during the year. There are no underground bakehouses in the area.

Sale of Food and Drugs.

The County Council is the authority for carrying out this Act,

Swimming Pools.

Copy of Analysis :—

BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER REPORT

Agar plate count, at 20°—22°C, for three days	=	2 per ml.
Agar plate count, at 37°C, for two days	=	1 per ml.
Faecal coli		not found in 100 ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli		none per 100 ml.
Enterococci		not found in 100 ml.

The results show this water to be satisfactory for bathing purposes.

Workshops.

The work carried on is chiefly dressmaking and millinery, joinery, motor and cycle repairs, photography and upholstery.

On the whole these places are well kept. In a few instances it was necessary to direct attention to want of cleanliness of sanitary conveniences.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. FRASER MENZIES, M.B., Ch.B.(St. And.)
Medical Officer of Health.

1—INSPECTION for purpose of provisions as to health. FACTORY ACTS.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories with mechanical power	43	3	—
Factories without mechanical power	12	1	—
† **Other Premises** under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. Total ...	55	4	—

2—DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H M. Inspector (4)	Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1)	2	2		
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—		
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—		
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—		
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) { insufficient	1	1	—	
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) { unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) { not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	
Other offences (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)				
Total ...	4	4	—	—

Sanitary Administration :

Report of work done by Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1948

Total No. of New Houses erected during the Year—	
(I) By the Local Authority	42
(II) By Other Local Authorities	Nil
(III) By other bodies or persons	10
1 Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	380
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	750
(2) (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	Nil
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	375
2 Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—	
No. of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	370
3 Action Under Statutory Powers during the Year :—	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) No of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	5
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	5
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(3) No. of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings ...	Nil

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil
(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	Nil
4 Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.	
(a) (I) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	3
(II) Number of families dwelling therein	7
(III) Number of persons dwelling therein	28
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	6
(c) (I) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	3
(II) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	21
(d) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	—
Common Lodging Houses—	
No. registered under by-laws	Nil
No. of inspections made	
No. of contraventions of by-laws	
No. of contraventions remedied	
Canal Boats used as Dwelling-houses—	
No. registered under Acts	Nil
No. of Inspections	
No. of contraventions of regulations	
No. of contraventions remedied	
Movable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, Etc.—	13 sites licensed and inspected periodically
No. inspected during year	
No. of nuisances therefrom abated	
No. removed from district	
Bakehouses—	
No. in district	9
No. of underground bakehouses	—
No. of Inspections	36
Contraventions of Factory Acts	5
Defects remedied	5
Slaughter-houses—	Ministry of Food Abbatoir Visited Daily
No. on register	
No. of Inspections	
Contraventions of by-laws	
Defects remedied	
Cowsheds—	
No. on register	13
No. of Inspections	50
Contraventions of regulations	2
Contraventions remedied	2
No. of milch cows in district	Approx. 175

Dairies and Milk Shops—	
No. on register	8
No. of Inspections	30
Contraventions of regulations	2
Contraventions remedied	2
Any instance of disease attributed to milk during the year	No
Offensive Trades—	
No. of premises in district	Nil
No. of Inspections	
Contraventions of by-laws	Nil
Contraventions remedied	
Shops Act, 1934	
Number of shops inspected	21
Additional heating or ventilation	3
Additional sanitary conveniences	2
WATER SUPPLY	
Wells—	
New sunk	
Cleansed, repaired	Nil
Closed as polluted	
Public Supply—	
Area supplied	whole area
Percentage of houses supplied	100%
New Cisterns provided	Nil
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered, etc.	Nil
Number of samples obtained for analysis	4
(a) from wells	Nil
(b) from public supply	3
Any insufficiency and where	No
DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE	
Closets—	
No. of houses with privy vaults in district	Nil
No. of houses with pail closets in district	40
No. of pail closets substituted for privy vaults	3
No. of pail closets repaired	5
No. of water-closets substituted for dry receptacles ...	Nil
No. of houses with water-closets in district	3473
No. of water-closets repaired	27
Drains—	
Drains examined, tested, exposed, &c.	12
,, unstopped, repaired, trapped, &c.	50
Waste pipes, rain water pipes disconnected, repaired, &c....	37
New soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed	2
Existing soil pipes or ventilating shafts repaired ...	10
Drains reconstructed	3
Sewers—	
New lengths of sewer laid	—
Tanks, Filter Beds, &c.—	
Alterations to sewage disposal works	Nil
Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works or complaints as to smells	No

Cesspools—	
Cesspools rendered impervious	Nil
,, emptied, cleansed, &c.	weekly
,, abolished	Nil
Disinfection—	
Rooms disinfected	43
(a) ordinary infectious disease	37
(b) tuberculosis	6
Rooms stripped and cleansed	Nil
Articles disinfected or destroyed	
(a) ordinary infectious disease	Nil
(b) tuberculosis	Nil
House Refuse—	
No. of covered ashpits	7
,, uncovered ashpits	Nil
,, bins substituted for ashpits	Nil
,, houses using bins	3500
Is refuse removed by householders or by public scavenger?	Council
How frequently is refuse removed from each house?	weekly
Method of final disposal	Controll'd Tip
Are existing arrangements for refuse removal satisfactory?	Yes
Nuisances—	
Total Number of Nuisances during year:—	
(1) Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	56
(2) Reported to Council, Statutory notice issued ...	5
,, ,, not issued ...	7

Detail of Nuisances Abated—

	After Informal Intimation	After Statutory Notice
Overcrowding	3	1
Smoke	2	—
Accumulation of refuse ...	15	—
Foul ditches, ponds & stagnant water	2	Nil
Foul pigs and other animals ...	3	Nil
Dampness	31	4
Yards repaved or repaired ...	3	Nil
Other nuisances	—	—

Supplementary Remarks as to Sanitary requirements of District, and extended notes from any of the foregoing entries.

Infectious Disease Visits	30
Food Premises Visits	63
Rodent Control Visits	70
Miscellaneous Visits	362

Unsound Food

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	1533		655	3969	261
Number inspected	1533		655	2976	261
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned ...	15		2	7	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	218		15	39	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	1.4		0.3	1.1	3.0
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned ...	30		6	Nil	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	396				12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	4.1		0.9	Nil	7.6